



City Administrator's Report

December 2011

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to share your comments and suggestions with us.

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Key Meetings

City Council Tuesdays, December 6, 13; 2 p.m.

Community Events

Parade of Lights Sunday, December 11; festival: 3:00 p.m.;
parade: 5:30 p.m.; Waterfront

Flags on State Street

Holiday Flags November 21 – December 5

Unity Shoppe December 5 – 12

Holiday Flags December 12 – January 3

City Administrator

New Waterfront Director Appointed. The Santa Barbara City Council voted unanimously to confirm the appointment of Scott Riedman as the City's Waterfront Director. As the Waterfront Director, Mr. Riedman will oversee the maintenance and operation of the Harbor and Stearns Wharf facilities, as well as numerous services to commercial fishermen, ocean-related businesses, tenants, and recreational visitors in the waterfront area.

Two-Week Closure Planned for City Offices. Most City administrative offices will be [closed](#) Monday, December 19 – Monday, January 2 due to furlough (unpaid leave for employees) and holiday schedules. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. While most administrative offices will be closed, many services will continue to be available. The 9-1-1 dispatch service for police and fire emergencies will continue operating during this time. The City's airport, marina, golf course, public parking lots, and selected community centers and

recreation facilities will remain open. The Central and Eastside Libraries will operate on a revised schedule.

Airport

October Passenger Count. The passenger count for October was 61,905, up 0.4% compared with October 2010. The total passenger count year-to-date was 611,463, down 4.0% compared to the same period last year. The highest average passenger loads were aboard *United Airlines* flights to Denver (92.7%), *American Eagle* flights to LAX (86.3%), and *Horizon Airlines* flights to Seattle (86.2%).

Plan Ahead for Holiday Flights. Passengers are advised to plan ahead and arrive early at the airport to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday travel experience. Travelers are encouraged to park in **Long Term Parking Lot 2** off Hollister Avenue and Frederick Lopez Road and to use the free Airport shuttle for easy access to and from the airline terminal.

Winter Holidays at the Santa Barbara Airport. During the week of December 12, local community choirs will enrich the holiday season at the Santa Barbara Airport. The Santa Barbara High School Madrigals Choir, Dos Pueblos High School Choir, and the Young Singers Club will perform at the Airline Terminal, along with other local choirs and brass combos.

Airport Master Plan. The Airport has implemented all the projects approved in its 2002 Master Plan. A new Master Plan will focus on airfield and general aviation facility improvements. Stakeholders have been invited participate on the Master Plan Advisory Committee. The first Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for December 7.

Community Development

Planning Commission Meetings. On December 1, the Commission approved the Shoreline Park Safety Improvements Project Coastal Development Permit and the Development Plan for a proposed medical office building and surgery center at 1722 State Street. The Commission also held a hearing to receive comments for a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Sycamore Creek Improvements Project (between Highway 101 and just north of Punta Gorda Street). The Planning Commission will meet on December 8, 2011 to review the resolutions and minutes from meetings in November. The December 15, 2011 meeting has been cancelled.

Plan Santa Barbara Adopted. On December 1, the City Council unanimously adopted the Plan Santa Barbara General Plan update. The General Plan update includes a new the Introductory Framework, Land Use Element, Housing Element, and revisions to the remaining six elements. The City Council simultaneously made all the required California Environmental Quality Act and state planning law findings when they adopted the Plan. The Council will discuss the implementation of the Plan in early 2012 at a joint meeting with the Planning Commission.

Redevelopment Agency Update. In August, the State Supreme Court issued a temporary hold on the implementation and enforcement of two redevelopment agency bills. Part of the approved state budget, the two bills propose for the elimination of redevelopment agencies or

allowing the agencies to exist if they pay a share of fees annually. The court established an expedited briefing schedule so that a decision may be reached before January 15, 2012, the date by which half of the approximately \$7.1 million in Redevelopment Agency funds are due to the State. Oral arguments were presented before the Supreme Court on November 10. Staff will continue to monitor this litigation.

Holiday Closure Information. The City will be closed from December 19 through January 2, 2012. Staff will not be able to prepare Zoning Information Reports during these furlough dates, and Building and Safety staff will not be available to accept or review plans for building permits.

- **Zoning Information Reports (ZIR):** Agents may continue to mail them in and staff will begin working on applications when the office re-opens on Tuesday, January 3rd. If an escrow opens and closes during the closure, agents are still required to submit an application as soon as possible. The double “after the fact” ZIR fee will be waived if valid escrow instructions are provided to verify the escrow opening and closing dates occurred during the closure. If you have any questions, call 564-5578.
- **Building and Safety Plan Check and Inspections:** There will be limited inspection staff available Monday – Thursday, the week of December 19, and Tuesday – Friday, the week of December 26. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Use the inspection request line as you normally would by calling 564-5492. If at all possible, please postpone your inspection until after the office re-opens.

Finance

October Transient Tax Occupancy (TOT) Update. October 2011 was another strong month for TOT collections, with 6.4% growth over October 2010. Year-to-date, TOT has grown 8.7% through the first three months of the fiscal year with collections of just over \$5.84 million. The TOT collections are \$224,300 ahead of the adopted budget for the fiscal year. October typically marks the end of the peak visitor season as we move into the cooler and wetter winter months. We will be monitoring this revenue closely to see how this important General Fund revenue performs through the holiday season.

| City of Santa Barbara | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES | | | | | | | | |
| Month | FY 2009 | Change Prior Year | FY 2010 | Change Prior Year | FY 2011 | Change Prior Year | FY 2012 | Change Prior Year |
| July | \$ 1,631,965 | 1.2% | \$ 1,393,219 | -14.6% | \$ 1,571,324 | 12.8% | \$ 1,763,206 | 12.2% |
| Aug | 1,820,811 | 10.6% | 1,474,189 | -19.0% | 1,591,121 | 7.9% | 1,697,686 | 6.7% |
| Sept | 1,196,294 | -1.8% | 1,106,152 | -7.5% | 1,154,834 | 4.4% | 1,255,217 | 8.7% |
| Oct | 1,049,515 | -2.4% | 944,230 | -10.0% | 1,058,405 | 12.1% | 1,125,763 | 6.4% |
| Nov | 770,009 | -11.6% | 672,636 | -12.6% | 752,641 | 11.9% | | |
| Dec | 599,323 | -10.4% | 588,594 | -1.8% | 651,909 | 10.8% | | |
| Jan | 680,474 | -1.6% | 685,633 | 0.8% | 692,393 | 1.0% | | |
| Feb | 643,342 | -20.7% | 683,280 | 6.2% | 742,361 | 8.6% | | |
| Mar | 760,032 | -24.0% | 823,759 | 8.4% | 825,040 | 0.2% | | |
| April | 930,516 | -2.9% | 957,350 | 2.9% | 1,060,466 | 10.8% | | |
| May | 944,898 | -15.5% | 1,001,965 | 6.0% | 1,093,703 | 9.2% | | |
| June | 1,010,973 | -19.9% | 1,133,124 | 12.1% | 1,264,961 | 11.6% | | |
| FY Total | \$ 12,038,153 | -6.9% | \$ 11,464,132 | -4.8% | \$ 12,459,157 | 8.7% | \$ 5,841,872 | 8.7% |
| Budget | | | | | | | \$ 12,865,000 | 3.3% |

Fire

Structure Fire with Fatality. On November 17, City firefighters responded to a warehouse fire on 2 South Quarantina Street. They located one person suffering from serious burns and transported him to Cottage Hospital. The Fire Department contained the fire a short time later. After conducting a search of the fire scene, firefighters located the body of a deceased adult female. The District Attorney's Fire Investigation Task Force was activated, and Santa Barbara Police Detectives responded as part of the investigation. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Public Health Statewide Medical Drill. On November 17, the City took part in the Public Health Department's statewide medical and health exercise. The successful exercise encompassed the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Solvang, and Lompoc, and included several medical facilities. The City worked on a water shut-off emergency that affected the area surrounding Cottage Hospital and would have included deploying the Reverse 911 system to alert residents affected by the water shut-off.

Man Rescued from Tree. On November 23, Santa Barbara firefighters responded to a report of a man who had been electrocuted while performing tree-trimming work and was stuck in a tree. The man was hanging upside down, approximately 30 feet in the air. The man's harness had begun to fail and was holding him by his ankles. Acting quickly, firefighters attached a harness to the victim and lowered him to the ground where he received immediate medical attention. The man suffered severe electrical burns and was transferred to Cottage Hospital.

Hazardous Materials Spill. On November 20, City firefighters responded to a report of an unknown substance in the storm drain near the intersection of Alisos and Montecito Streets. Fire personnel determined that the unknown substance was coming from the roof of a nearby business. Further investigation revealed that a roofing company had recently applied an acrylic sealant to a commercial building. The sealant had not properly cured and was being washed off the roof by the steady rain. Fire personnel used sandbags, absorbent materials, and dirt to contain the spill. An environmental cleanup company dispatched a vacuum truck to load the product for proper disposal. The commercial property owners assumed financial responsibility for the cleanup.

Emergency Alert System Test. On November 9, the federal government conducted the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Although there was a lack of clarity in some of the messages from federal authorities, the local Offices of Emergency Services worked closely with media to deliver important and timely safety information. The federal government will be preparing an after-action report on the test to determine what corrective actions are needed for the nationwide EAS system.

Library

Library Treasure Sale. The Library netted nearly \$7,000 at the special and rare book sale held in November. Most of the items, which included prints, magazines, and books, had been donated to the Library over the last few years. The Friends of the Santa Barbara Public Library

organized and ran the sale. Highlights of the sale included a signed first edition of *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, a wide collection of art books, and a small collection of original 1930's art.

Carpinteria Library to Re-Open Mondays. With the success of the "Save Our Library" campaign, the Friends of the Carpinteria Library have agreed to fund the re-opening of the Library on Mondays. A branch of the Santa Barbara Public Library System, the Carpinteria Library has only been open Tuesday – Saturday since 2010, when reduced funding forced the elimination of Monday service. Starting January 9, Monday hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Teen Poster Contest. The Library is a cosponsor of the second annual Domestic Violence Solutions (DVS) for the Santa Barbara County Poster Contest for teens. DVS representatives have invited students to create artwork based on the theme of increasing awareness and prevention of teen dating violence. The entry deadline is December 15. The Central Library will host a display of the top 25 designs in February, when teens can view the finalist posters and vote for a Teen Choice Award.

Parks and Recreation

Franklin Youth Center Offers Services for Youth and Teens. The Franklin Youth Center, which opened earlier this year, serves youth ages 10 – 18. The facility runs a free "drop in" format. Teens may enter or leave during the designated hours and may engage in different activities while there, including playing arcade-type games, watching movies on the home theatre, working on computers, and listening to music. The Center is open Monday – Thursday, 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. and every Friday until 7:00 p.m. Come see the new Youth Center and join the fun! The Center will remain open during the December furlough, Monday – Friday, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, contact Carmin Garcia at 897-2582.

Holiday Fun for Kids. Parks and Recreation offers two activities for kids during the holiday break; perfect for those parents in need of some free time to shop! For more information, call 564-5495.

- **Holiday Lego Workshop** is an afternoon camp where "engineers" create a mechanized mountain-top resort from Legos in the MacKenzie Park Adult Building.
 - Ages 5 – 7 meet Monday, 12/19; 1 – 4 p.m.
 - Ages 8 – 12 meet Tuesday, 12/20; 1 – 4 p.m.
- **Winter Tennis Clinic** offers youth ages 8 – 14 an opportunity to learn or upgrade their tennis skills. For more information, call 564-5573 or enroll [online](#).
 - Monday-Friday, 12/19 – 12/23, 9 a.m. – noon at the Municipal Tennis courts.

Register Now for Free Youth Afterschool Blacktop Basketball League. Register your child (grades 2-6) today for this free program. Registration is through **December 9**. Games begin in January and include one Monday practice and one game per week. Register [online](#) or in person at the Cabrillo Bathhouse, 1118 East Cabrillo Blvd. For more information, call 564-5422. Leagues include grades 2-3 coed; grades 4-5 boys; grades 4-6 girls; and grade 6 boys.

Police

Police Activities League (PAL) Events. On December 14, PAL will be hosting the annual Christmas Dinner at the Cabrillo Art Building, serving low-income families from the community. Santa will distribute gifts collected from the toy drive to the children, including new bicycles.

Downtown Burglar Arrested. On November 28, officers arrested a burglar who had broken into two downtown restaurants and attempted to steal money from the cash registers. Both times, there was no money in the register. Officers identified the burglar from video surveillance systems in both restaurants. Officers had recently cited him as one of the Occupy Santa Barbara protesters camping at De La Guerra Plaza. He was charged with two counts of burglary, an outstanding burglary warrant from Los Angeles, and parole violation.

Auto Burglar Arrested. On November 29, an officer on patrol in the 1000 block of Milpas Street witnessed an auto burglary in progress. When the burglar began to walk away, the officer detained him. A consent search revealed a large fixed-blade knife, a hammer, and small tools. The officer located the owner and discovered that some costume jewelry was missing, which later was located in the burglar's possession. The owner said the car was unlocked. Avila was booked for theft, possession of burglary tools, and carrying a concealed weapon.

Keep Your Possessions Safe this Holiday. Remember to lock your vehicle no matter how short your time away from it might be. Do not keep items of value in plain sight inside your vehicle. If shopping throughout the day, leave the bags in the trunk of your vehicle or out of sight. If you have keyless entry, double-check that your vehicle did lock before walking away from it.

Public Works

Public Works Department Annual Report Now Available. Public Works has released the [Public Works Department Annual Report for 2011](#). The report highlights the Department's organization and services, City infrastructure improvements, day-to-day operations, and special programs and events accomplished through fiscal year 2011, which runs July 2010 through June 2011.

Lower Westside Downtown Lighting Project. The City of Santa Barbara is installing new street lighting in the lower Westside neighborhood, continuing until mid-April. Special utility installation techniques will eliminate the need for open trenches and will reduce noise impacts and traffic disruptions in the neighborhood; however, area residents and businesses may experience noise from jackhammers, truck back-up alarms, and other equipment associated with construction. Intermittent street closures and traffic detours may also be required. The Public Works Department appreciates the community's patience and cooperation during construction. If you have questions, please contact Max Kashanian at 564-5450.

Save on Your Water Bill with a Free Sensor. Residents can reduce winter water consumption (and their bills) by an average of 16% with a free rain shut-off sensor for the sprinkler timer, provided by the City's Water Conservation Program. Since the rain shut-off sensor program started in 2007, 313 water customers have saved 1.4 million gallons of water. The sensor automatically stops the sprinkler timer from watering during and immediately after a

rain event. Rain shut-off sensors work best for short periods; for extended periods, turn the sprinkler timer to the "off" position. For more information, contact the Water Conservation Program at 564-5460.

Bothin Pump Station Rehabilitation. The City will be replacing equipment at the Bothin Pump Station, located at the East Reservoir off Crestview Lane, west of Barker Pass Road. There is no planned interruption to water service. The replacements are necessary to rehabilitate the water pumps and improve energy efficiencies in the City's water distribution system. For project updates, contact Eric Maple at 897-2501.

Waterfront

Visitor Makes Full Recovery After Fall From Stearns Wharf. Matthew Beams, a visitor from Pasadena who fell from Stearns Wharf in late October, has made a full recovery. He was leaning forward in his wheelchair to take a picture when one of his front wheels got caught in a space between the boards, causing his chair to fall forward into the water. He expresses his sincere gratitude to all the bystanders and emergency personnel who helped to rescue him, and he hopes to return to Santa Barbara to personally thank those involved.

Waterfront Parking Permits Now Available. Annual Waterfront parking permits are now available for purchase. General permits cost \$95 and slip-holder permits (one per slip) cost \$70. Permits are valid from the date of purchase through December 31, 2012. The Waterfront Department encourages residents and slip holders to purchase the 2012 permits early for a whole year of economical parking. General permits are available at the Harbormaster's Office and all parking kiosks, except Stearns Wharf. Slip-holder permits may only be purchased at the Harbormaster's Office. For more information, call 897-1965.

Parade of Lights. The 26th Annual Parade of Lights will take place Sunday, December 11, with a theme of "Candy Cane Holidays." Festivities begin at 3 p.m. with a Santa's Village featuring snow, holiday music, and a visit from Santa. Deep Sea Wine Tasting will host the judging party on Stearns Wharf while distinguished judges and thousands of spectators cheer on the boats at 5:30 p.m. A short fireworks display will follow the parade. The awards ceremony will take place at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, and a list of winners will be posted [online](#).